IIT and Central University in Himachal Pradesh

356. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up an IIT and a Central University in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of the Centre to set up an IIT or a Central University in Orissa to meet the long-standing demand of the people of this backward State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURNADESWARI): (a) to (c) Government has decided to set up 16 Central Universities in States which do not have a Central University at present, including one each in Himachal Pradesh and Orissa. A decision, in priniciple, has also been taken to set up one IIT in Himachal Pradesh. Request of the Government of Orissa for an IIT will be kept in mind while deciding locations of four new IITs to be set up in the 11th Plan, in respect of which locational decisions are yet to be taken.

Universities as Moribund Centres

357. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the universities, in particular, instead of developing into vibrant centres of high quality education and research able to attract both good faculty and students, have become largely moribund;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what quality of primary and higher education Government is providing now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURNADESWARI): (a) and (b) It is not correct to say that the universities in India have become largely moribund. Out of 140 universities accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council upto 31.3.2007, 89 universities have been graded as 'B' category and above.

(c) Improvement of quality and standards is a continuous process, and there is always need and scope for improvement. All out efforts are being made for improving quality of primary education through measures including provisions of adequate number of teachers, facilities for training of teachers, structures to provide on site academic support, development of teaching learning material and text books for children from special focus groups etc. In higher education, the interventions for providing quality includes grants to universities/ colleges with potential for excellence, research projects, fellowships schemes for pursuing M. Phil and Ph.D, orientation and refresher programmes for teachers and strengthening of research in universities.

Demand for skilled workers

358. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's demand for highly educated and skilled workers was already out stripping supply, according to a World Bank study;